

CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Finsterwalde Airfield

25X1

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

25X1

DATE OBTAINED

PREPARED 28 April 1955

25X1

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

1. Air activity

At 1200 on 25 February 1955, air activity was observed at Finsterwalde 25X1 airfield. There was sunny weather and good visibility. Three MiG-15s made local flights at an altitude of about 1,500 meters. The aircraft continuously took off and landed at intervals of 5 to 10 minutes and remained aloft for about 5 minutes.

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Air activity was discontinued at 1600. A radio truck with a rod antenna about 7 meters high was parked south of the western end of the runway. Between 1600 and 1700 on 14 March, no air activity was observed. Vehicular traffic at the field included truck and sedan

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2. Dabern firing range

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Soviet Air Force troops practiced firing over Dabern firing range on 22 January 1955, for the first time since September 1954. Between 1200 and 1600, MiG-15 aircraft individually approached from the east to the west. There was clear visibility and a slightly overcast sky. The aircraft came from and returned in the direction of Finsterwalde. They approached the field 4 to 8 times at an altitude of 1,500 to 2,000 meters, dived down to about 400 meters at an angle of about 45 degrees and gave up to 3 bursts of fire each time. Some aircraft dived down to 100 or 150 meters, then pulled out of dive climbed to the former altitude and subsequently made another approach.

During the noon and afternoon hours on 4, 5 and 12 February, similar practice flights were made by MiG-15s. Between 1000 and 1635 on 11 March, there was practice flying by MiG-15s which again came from and departed in the direction of Finsterwalde. The same practice flights were made as previously observed. Most of the MiG-15s directly approached the firing range while other aircraft circled over the field several time before diving. It seemed that the pilots of the latter aircraft had to become familiar with the area before beginning firing practices. The following number of aircraft approached between 1500 and 1635:

3	between 1500 and 1515
2 "	1520 " 1535
3 "	1600 " 1615
1 "	1620 " 1635

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Each MiG-15 dived 8 times during the periods mentioned.

Between 1000 and 1400 on 12 March, the same practice flights were made as on 11 March. The weather was favorable. The following approaches and dives were observed:

3 aircraft approached between 1220 and 1235, each aircraft dived 8 times
 1 " with one dive at 1300
 1 " " 8 dives between 1312 and 1327
 1 " " 4 " " 1332 " 1341

At 1400, air activity was discontinued. At 1600, van-like truck [redacted] 25X1
 occupied by 1 officer and 4 EM wearing black-bordered blue epaulets left
 Dabern firing range and moved toward Finsterwalde.
 On 14 and 15 March, no practice flights were made. On the latter day,
 about 20 soldiers worked on the target markings on the firing range. The
 targets presumably had to be newly arranged because of thaw.
 During the practice flights by MiG-15s over Dabern firing range on 12 March,
 20 MiG-15s flying in small wedge formations crossed over Dabern area at
 an altitude of about 2,000 meters. There were large intervals between the
 individual formations. The 20 MiG-15s were not connected with the aircraft
 which practiced firing over the firing range. ¹

3. Motor vehicle column

At about 1300 on 25 February, a column of 19 trucks towing AA guns and 3
 sedans parked on the market place in Sonnenwalde. The vehicles were en
 route to Finsterwalde. [redacted]

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1. [redacted] Comment. The reported air activity at Finsterwalde airfield and
 over the Dabern firing range was by MiG-15s of the GA Regt Brandis.

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2. [redacted] Comment. Presumably an AA unit from Finsterwalde airfield. [redacted]

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